



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Burundi

Army Talks With Tanzanian Counterparts

EA1212113395 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 0430 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Relations between Burundi and Tanzania are in good form. The Sixth Military Region Command composed of Makamba, Bururi, and Matana Provinces welcomed a delegation of the garrison command of Kigoma, Tanzania, headed by Major Clement Ngolo Bisango on 8 December. In their discussions, the Tanzanian and Burundian delegations praised relations between Burundians and Tanzanians at the civilian and military levels. They deplored the recent attacks at Kabonga and Kigabwe in which at least 15 people died. The two delegations committed themselves to doing everything possible to resettle the Kabonga people in their homes, and to restore the characteristically good relations between Tanzania and Burundi.

To that effect, the commander of the Fifth Military Region, Lieutenant Colonel Damien Ndabisigaranye, and the commander of Kigoma Garrison, Major Bisango agreed to strengthen border controls over movements between the two countries, in order to avoid incursions by armed gangs from Tanzania or the flight of criminals from Burundian territory to Tanzania.

According to an ABP correspondent in Makamba, the officials also agreed to fight banditry, and to return stolen property to their owners. The same source says Maj. Bisango pledged to fight the enemies of peace in Burundi, notably those who use firearms or those who spread rumors or distribute pamphlets to destabilize Burundi.

Lt. Col. Ndabisigaranye took the opportunity to ask the Tanzanian authorities to stop broadcasting news about Burundi on the Tanzanian media before checking the information, since, he said, it is mostly the very people destabilizing Burundi who are the source of information, and who say what they like.

The two delegations expressed dissatisfaction with the political aims of certain people, and decided to stop listening to them, in order to promote bilateral interests. The Burundian and Tanzanian officials agreed to meet in the next few days to continue their dialogue.

The visit constitutes a further step toward maintaining goodneighborliness between Burundi and Tanzania, as requested by Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo during his visit to Nyanza-Lac and Makamba.

Tutsi Guards To Protect Hutu Dignitaries

BR1212094595 Brussels LA LIBRE BELGIQUE in French 9-10 Dec 95 p 6

[Report by Marie-France Cros: "Calm Returns to Bujumbura — Difficult To Assess Results of Guerrilla Attack"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Life returned to its "normal" course in Bujumbura on Friday morning [8 December], two days after the violence set off on Wednesday from a Hutu guerrilla attack. The damaged houses seem to include as many Tutsi as Hutu residences. "Security meetings" were organized in neighborhoods affected by shooting and fires but the public, which was invited to them, did not attend massively. According to one of our sources in the Burundian capital, these meetings did at any rate calm minds a little.

It would seem that the "assailants" (a term which in Burundi designates Hutu insurgents) prepared their attack well. They took their time to infiltrate Mutanga, the final mixed (Hutu/Tutsi) neighborhood in the capital (a Tutsi bastion), entering some homes to look for food. Inhabitants, finding themselves face to face with them, were not fired upon.

Hutu Guards

In contrast, a polemic has started concerning the armed guards of Hutu personalities who live in this chic neighborhood. Since the failed military coup of October 1993 and the ethnic violence which followed, the regime's leaders have been given soldiers for their personal protection. Hutu dignitaries choose Hutu soldiers for this purpose. As the latter are few in number in the Army, a Tutsi bastion, it is always the same soldiers who remain allocated to this work. The result is that they obey the orders of the person they are protecting rather than their original unit.

In this way, the Hutu guard of the former general administrator of the Documentation Unit (in the intelligence service), Audifax Ndabitoreye, refused to allow him to be arrested as demanded by a magistrate and allowed him to flee the country. The legal authorities — dominated by Tutsi magistrates — accuse him of providing aid to the Hutu guerrillas.

Armed Civilians

This problem reoccurred during the attack by the Hutu guerrillas on Wednesday. Officially there was one civilian victim, an old woman, and 25 dead among the "assailants." Nevertheless, the military authorities did not hide the fact that they would consider any armed civilian as a guerrilla, but it is known that all Bujumbura

inhabitants with the necessary money have bought a weapon to defend themselves due to the insecurity. When there is shooting near them, armed inhabitants open fire on strangers to the neighborhood, convinced they are killers.

Civilians are said to have seen firing from the houses of Hutu dignitaries. Were they real "assailants," since complicity between Hutu leaders with the guerrillas is not exceptional? Or were they civilians defending themselves? For the Army at any rate the Hutu soldiers guarding these houses failed in their duty by not "neutralizing" the civilians who were firing, therefore, some sanctions are expected, as after the "Audifax case." The authorities have already announced that from now on the guards of Hutu dignitaries will be regularly changed so that they maintain military discipline. It is obvious that Hutu personalities will feel less safe — if not in danger — if they are guarded by Tutsi soldiers.

Hutu Official, Son Murdered in Bujumbura

*AB1212100395 Paris AFP in English
0916 GMT 12 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bujumbura, 12 Dec (AFP) — The Hutu head of Burundi's welfare institute and his four-year-old son were killed instantly when unknown assailants tossed a grenade inside their car over the weekend, police said Tuesday [12 December]. Juvenal Manirambona, a former lawmaker, had just been appointed to his post two weeks ago. A Tutsi friend of Manirambona, who was also in the car, died of wounds soon after Sunday's attack.

In a communique published in Germany, the pro-Hutu organization "Burundi Buro" blamed "members of the Tutsi death squad 'Without failure'" for the attack.

Last Friday, two people were reported killed and another injured in a similar grenade attack at a hospital clinic after a week of ethnic unrest which ended in a huge rally for peace.

Although no-one has claimed responsibility for that grenade attack, suspicion also centered on Tutsi extremists active in Bujumbura. Police said 26 people — 25 militia members and an old woman — had died in clashes earlier last week in the east of the capital, but diplomatic sources said the real toll could be higher.

Witnesses said hundreds of Hutu extremists had been involved in fighting. Police said they had come from Zaire, where tens of thousands of Burundian Hutus fled to escape ethnic unrest.

Political or ethnic killings are common in Burundi, where the civil war pitting the Hutu majority against the Tutsi minority has claimed thousands of lives since the

start of the year, according to the international aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres. Saturday, 1,000 to 4,000 women, according to various sources, demonstrated in Bujumbura in a rally for peace and against violence.

Rwanda

Rwigema on Return of Refugees, Ties With France

*BR1112170595 Brussels LE SOIR in French
11 Dec 95 p 2*

[Interview with Prime Minister Pierre-Celestin Rwigema by Colette Braeckman in Cotonou; date not given: "The Present Situation in Rwanda and Role of the UN Force"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Braeckman] Why did you so vigorously oppose France at the recent summit of French-speaking nations in Cotonou on the subject of a resolution for a conference under the aegis of the United Nations?

[Rwigema] Our main criticism of this text is that it fails to take into account the efforts already made in the subregion, and of the participants of the Nairobi and Bujumbura conferences whose recommendations were not even implemented. Before holding another conference, you must first assess the results of those already held, and at which it was decided to separate civilians and military, bring refugees back from the border, and disarm the militia. Tanzania and Burundi implemented these resolutions, but not Zaire. In proposing this new conference, France acted as if Rwanda and even the OAU did not exist. We cannot accept it. Fortunately, thanks to Belgium's French-speaking community, we were not isolated among the French-speaking world.

[Braeckman] What are the main lines of your policy?

[Rwigema] The great priority is the return of refugees. We want to reconcile our people. We also want to bring the perpetrators of the genocide to justice, settle disputes concerning private property, restore the legal system, and integrate elements of the former army. Above all, we want our brothers to return. Many of them have property in the country, and family, and they must not lose everything. If there are any political battles to be fought, they must wage them inside the country, not outside where they may be manipulated and lose their love of the country. We want to work with all Rwandans who love their country....

[Braeckman] Why did you agree to extend the UN-AMIR [United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda] mandate as the West asked you to do?

[Rwigema] In the interests of appeasement Rwanda has agreed that UNAMIR can remain another three months

in the country, but the size of the contingent must be reviewed and it must be given new structures. What we want to do now is rebuild the country. To do that we need engineers and teachers.

[Braeckman] Why so much criticism of France, especially by President Bizimungu?

[Rwigema] Our relations with France do indeed remain difficult. For three months, France blocked any action which could have been favorable to Rwanda, and acted with hostility: Everything is happening as if France wanted us to negotiate with the killers, which is impossible. I believe that France is still mourning the loss of the former Rwandan regime.... In any event, we are awaiting the results of the inquiries of the International Tribunal, which will perhaps indicate the responsibility of some foreign countries for what happened in Rwanda....

[Braeckman] The situation in Rwanda is giving rise to a great deal of pessimism and the comments by former Prime Minister Twagiramungu, speaking of 250,000 dead, caused a considerable stir....

[Rwigema] Rwanda has suffered a triple tragedy: the genocide, the massacres, the war. It has also been abandoned by the rest of the world. We are now regaining our self-confidence. As to Twagiramungu, I ask you one question: How could he stay at his post for 13 months, knowing what he knew, without saying a word? Even when he arrived in Europe, two months ago, he still said nothing.

[Braeckman] His position was perhaps not easy.... What would you have done in his place?

[Rwigema] I know one thing for sure: I would have resigned rather than cover up such crimes! To make such statements after having yourself been in a position of responsibility is to act out of pure political opportunism. Also, in Cairo, former U.S. President Carter refuted these statements, and he had talked with UN observers, the European Union, the NGOs [Nongovernment Organizations], and UNAMIR. In a small country, with so many foreigners everywhere, how could such massacres have passed unnoticed?

[Braeckman] There seems to be no progress with the judicial system, the prisons are full, and you have refused the 200 judges which the French-speaking Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation wanted to make available to you....

[Rwigema] Contrary to what people say, the judicial system is being set up in Rwanda: The Superior Court is now in place, the judges have been appointed. As to the foreign judges, we need assistance, advice, and

aid in training our own magistrates, but people cannot decide for us.

[Braeckman] The Army is accused of being everywhere. Who in fact really holds power?

[Rwigema] In July 1994, the country was in ruins, its infrastructures, its human resources, its administration.... We had to start again from scratch. We had no managers, no policemen. The Army was the only structured force at that time and soldiers had to perform tasks which they would not normally have done, but the situation has changed. There are now more civilian managers, and we expect to demobilize 10,000 soldiers.

[Braeckman] Will Rwanda become an English-speaking country?

[Rwigema] Some of the refugees who have returned following the diaspora do indeed speak English due to their exile. They are our brothers, this country is their home. In addition to the mother tongue, children are going to learn French and English, from a very young age: Languages are a door to the world. Rest assured: Rwanda was French-speaking before the genocide and it still is now....

Eight Unnamed Persons Indicted for War Crimes

AB1212100795 Paris AFP in English
0756 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Arusha, Tanzania, 12 Dec (AFP) — The Rwanda war crimes tribunal indicted eight people on genocide charges Tuesday [12 December] in its first ruling, but did not name any of them. The tribunal clerk, Andronico Adede, said the indictments concerned massacres at four different sites, all carried out in the Kibuye area of southwest Rwanda between April and June 1994. Five of the eight people indicted were individually charged with genocide and crimes against humanity, while all eight were charged with conspiring to commit genocide.

Other indictments were expected to follow shortly against suspects being held in Belgium and Zambia, the head of the UN-appointed tribunal, Richard Goldstone said. [passage omitted]

Whereabouts of Human Rights Activist Unknown

AB1112173595 Paris AFP in French
1236 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kigali, 11 Dec (AFP) — Jean-Baptiste Barambirwa, chairman of the Collective of Human Rights Leagues and Associations in Rwanda [CLADHO], has disappeared, it was disclosed today at the CLADHO office.

Barambirwa has not been seen since the ceremony held at a big hotel in the Rwandan capital yesterday to mark the end of the "Human Rights Week," which was organized on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of the Universal Human Rights Declaration. Barambirwa, who left the hotel alone in his car, had delivered a speech that was very critical of the situation in Rwanda.

He had condemned the state of Rwandan prisons, where some 60,000 Hutus have been left to rot, accused with-

out trial of having participated in last year's genocide. He had also criticized the fact that "the right to ownership is one of most violated rights" in Rwanda. He had denounced "the reasons for arbitrary detentions" and "unrecognized places of detention, which are sources of unexplained disappearances of which no account is given to anybody." The CLADHO office says it is "very worried."

Kenya

Court Confirms Wamalwa FORD-K Chairman

*EA1212111795 Nairobi KTN Television Network
in English 1800 GMT 11 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The High Court today confirmed Michael Wamalwa as FORD [Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Kenya]-Kenya chairman, restraining Raila Odinga from taking over leadership. Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch said Raila had failed to produce a statutory notification of change of office bearers in accordance with the requirements of the Society's Act. Lady Justice Aluoch cited obvious disputes between the two rival factions, and directed them to go for arbitration as provided for by the party's constitution.

Amnesty Releases Report on Prison Conditions

*EA1212112195 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English
12 Dec 95 p 5*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amnesty International yesterday released a report and video footage showing evidence of alleged inhumanity in Kenya's prisons. The report claims that suspects are "systematically tortured to extract confessions", as are political prisoners and alleged activists, often from ethnic groups perceived to support opposition parties. "Investigations into allegations of torture by the police are rare - prosecutions still more rare - and many police officers routinely torture detainees with impunity."

The 31-page report, "Kenya: torture, compounded by the denial of medical care", is partially based on a medical research. It also documents the number of prisoners denied medication or [who] receive it too late.

"Well-known political prisoners are ill-treated and tortured. For every high-profile case of torture, however, there are scores of lesser known victims across Kenya who are tortured, sometimes to the point of permanent disability or even death." Most political prisoners, the report says are tortured by the special branch or the Criminal Investigations Department officers.

Amnesty international had received a number of reports of refugees from Uganda, Somalia and Rwanda being harassed, tortured by Kenya security forces. "Amnesty international researchers gathered first-hand accounts of the methods of torture employed by the Kenyan police, which include beatings with sticks, fists, handles of hoes and gun butts. Both men and women have been subjected to violent forms of sexual humiliation." [passage omitted]

Somalia

Libyan Diplomats Escape Death in Ambush 8 Dec

*AB0912193595 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 9 Dec 95*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A group of Libyan diplomats in Somalia narrowly escaped death yesterday evening at a time when security is on the slide throughout the country. The Libyans have been supporting faction leader General Farah Aidid. They have even recognized the government he set up in south Mogadishu to the annoyance of his rival, Ali Mahdi Mohamed, and it was apparently militias of Ali Mahdi who laid an ambush for Libyans on the road to Afgooye. From Mogadishu, Ali Musa Abdi faxed this report:

The convoy, escorting the three-man Libyan delegation, was ambushed at Km 14 in south Mogadishu. The diplomats managed to escape but one of the two technicals belonging to Gen. Aidid was put out of action, and sources close to the militiamen say that one gunman died while three others were injured. It is not known whether the diplomats themselves were injured or whether the recently appointed Libyan ambassador to the government of Gen. Aidid, Mustafa Salim Amush, was part of the group.

It is thought that the perpetrators of the ambush are from the Madina District which is largely controlled by Musa Sidi Yalahow, a loyalist of Ali Mahdi Mohamed. The attack was well-planned and deliberate since traffic on the road was otherwise uninterrupted.

Ali Mahdi Mohamed recently announced that Libyan nationals were not welcome in Somalia. He accused Libyans of losing their impartiality after Libya officially recognized the government of Gen. Aidid by appointing Ambassador Amush. It is thought the Libyan delegation were on their way to Balli Doogle Airport which has reopened now that the dispute between Gen. Aidid's militiamen has been resolved.

Meanwhile, the Murusadeh-Abgal fighting in the Tihsile area intensified yesterday afternoon with reports from Mogadishu hospital of nine dead and 21 wounded. The fighting has spread to Afgooye, 30 km south of Mogadishu, which lies at the junction on the main route south, with the road leading inland to Baidoa. Hundreds of civilians are said to have fled the area.

Official Denies Ambush of Libyan Diplomat

EA1212095095 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of the Masses of the Somali Republic in Somali 1700 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for the government of the republic of Somalia said today that a report broadcast by the BBC's English section, according to which a group of bandits who support Ali Mahdi ambushed the Libyan ambassador to Somalia along the road between Mogadishu and Baidoa, is a baseless lie. The spokesman said there was no attack on the Libyan ambassador, and that the road connecting Mogadishu and Baidoa is safe. He said the BBC broadcast is part of the propaganda fabricated by the BBC in order to spread lies about stability in Somalia. In conclusion, the spokesman called on the BBC to refrain from reports which are far from reality, and the true situation in Somalia, and to safeguard the reputation of journalism.

Aidid Militiamen Killed in Kismaayo Fighting

EA1212101795 Mogadishu Voice of the Somali Republic in Somali 1700 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sixteen of Aidid's armed men died and 15 others were seriously injured after the bandits provocatively attacked some places in Kismaayo district of Jubbada Hoose region. The Somali Patriotic Movement-Somali Salvation Alliance [SPM-SSA] spokesman in Mogadishu, Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Hungub Bidde, said that in this attack one of Aidid's bandits' technicals was burned out, and another was seized. The bandits suffered a major defeat there. The spokesman did not give the losses on the SPM-SSA side but said that the situation in the places attacked by the bandits is now stable, and that the bandits are being hotly pursued in their attempt to escape.

Fighting Reported in Shabeellaha Hoose Region

EA1212102195 Mogadishu Voice of the Somali Republic in Somali 1700 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A United Somali Congress-Somali Salvation Alliance [USC-SSA] spokesman disclosed today that serious fighting broke out on 6 December between the SSA peace forces and Aidid's bandits at certain places in the districts of Afgooye and Wanaqweyn in Shabeellaha Hoose region after the bandits under Aidid's command attacked them aggressively and by surprise.

The spokesman said that the fighting, which has now entered its fifth day, is still going on with much vigor, and that the victories of the forces of the peace-loving Somalis, the SSA, are increasing every minute. The spokesman did not disclose the losses on either side because the fighting is still going on, and the reports are changing with the time and place of the fighting.

The spokesman said that among the most important areas of fighting are the district of Afgooye, and Wanaqweyn, and (Takhsiile) villages. Speaking about the cause of the latest fighting, he said it is one of the disturbances for which Aidid and his armed men are well-known; they start up civil war in districts and regions of the country with the aim of blocking and undermining the hope of peace which will become a reality sometime in the future, God willing.

Last, the spokesman called on the forces of peace to unite against whoever opposes their unity, and he promised to inform the public about any new developments in the fighting as soon as possible.

Ambassador to U.S. Reviews Relations With U.S.

*MB1112210095 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network
in Afrikaans 1830 GMT 11 Dec 95*

[Interview with Ambassador to the United States Franklin Sonn by SABC correspondent Freek Robinson in the Johannesburg studios — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Robinson] Welcome, Ambassador Sonn. It is a new position for you; you have been in the post for a while, a year in Washington. While you are driving through Washington toward Congress, how do you feel? Do you feel proud?

[Sonn] Well, Freek, my appointment in Washington represents change. And like many of my colleagues in the cabinet and elsewhere, we are wont to occupy these positions, and we are determined to make a success of them, to promote the new South Africa. I enjoy Washington very much; it's a very difficult and challenging task.

[Robinson] Why is it difficult?

[Sonn] It's difficult because the post in the United States — it's not a country, it's a continent with 52 [as heard] countries — 130 metropolitan areas of more than a million people — and it has a very large and strong economy. New York's budget alone is \$32 billion. South Africa's entire budget is about \$41 billion. South Africa is smaller than Texas, then there are still 51 other states. And there are also a lot of problems we inherited from the old regime, such as the notorious Armscor [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] matter; and then also the trade problems we have with — known in the United States as intellectual property rights — and the trademark issues...

[Robinson, interrupting] I would like to go into more detail on that, but I just want to talk in general. Why do you say it's difficult? Are the Americans giving you problems, they as people?

[Sonn] No, it's because the task is so challenging. We have passed the stage when we only fought for rights. We now have to market our country, and we have to market it as a successful winning country, and that's a big challenge because the challenges of the market are so vast. But talking about Americans, our relations with the United States are good. You know, many people have said, and I think you also asked me once about all the stumbling blocks in our relationship, but I've always said our relationship is defined by the Bilateral Commission between the two vice presidents. That defines our relationship. Within the framework of that relationship there are differences, and for instance when I feel that the United States does not respect our

integrity and sovereignty, then I stand up; I speak up against them...

[Robinson, interrupting] Do they do it sometimes?

[Sonn] Yes, they do it sometimes, because it's a big country.

[Robinson] Can you cite examples where they do it?

[Sonn] For instance, the issue about trademarks, and the issue about Armscor.

[Robinson] Are they accusing us of stealing their trademarks?

[Sonn] Yes, and that we are not accommodating enough to do something about it, and we believe that this is a matter that should be sorted out in the courts, and that our government and our minister in matters like these [as heard]. We must remember that the United States [changes thought] they have international rules that govern these things, but because it is currently the only superpower in the world, it makes its own rules. It's the only country in the world that makes extra-territorial legislation and implements it, and if you don't follow it, then they can apply sanctions, like what is happening now with Armscor. We are currently subjected to sanctions by the United States regarding our weaponry; for instance the UN and other powers want to buy anti-mine apparatus from us, but the United States has imposed a boycott on the purchase of weapons from us, and we can't sell it to them as a result of the pending Armscor case. What is interesting about it is that South Africa — the new government — is being regarded by the United States as a follow-up government to the old government, and therefore the bad activities of the old government against, for instance, laws governing arms sales in the United States, they are now applying those laws to South Africa, and they could summon South Africa to U.S. courts, and if you don't comply, then the sanctions simply continue and in the process we stand to lose billions of rands.

[Robinson] How is the court case progressing in the United States? Is it continuing? Do you see it ending, because it also was discussed last week during Vice President Gore's visit.

[Sonn] Well, it was not formal, it was not on the agenda, but informal discussions were conducted about it in a cordial atmosphere. We want to settle the matter, but we want to do it in such a way that we don't compromise our integrity and sovereignty as a country.

[Robinson] What do you mean by that? You are not going to pay? You are not going to pay the debt of apartheid?

[Sonn] Well, it depends on what the Americans put on the table for us. We have indicated that if they don't come forward with an agreement we can live with, and which the government will accept as in South Africa's best interests, then we will consider testing the legal aspect, the right of U.S. sovereign power to involve another sovereign country such as South Africa in its courts, and then, according to its own legislation, test it in their courts. We don't want to do that because it causes tension and so on, and my orders are to explore if we can't settle this matter in a decent way, and we are making good progress, especially during the past few weeks.

[Robinson] I want to get to other matters you referred to, such as Iran, for instance. But before getting to that, let's talk about the United States being the only superpower, and the initial question that I asked you, are they acting like a bully to you?

[Sonn] Not at all.

[Robinson] There has been speculation in the paper about the security guards who caused a spectacle when the vice president was here.

[Sonn] Let me just talk about that quickly. You know, Freek, one was a bit perturbed about the security guards' actions, but we in South Africa also must begin to realize that world leaders have protection, and we are not used to the queen of England, the U.S. president, coming here for a visit, and when it does happen, there is a measure of disruption, but we must learn to show some patience. I'm not saying that I condone the bullying tactics by the security guards. Americans are very [words indistinct] to stand your ground, make it clear that you want to promote and expand the relationship between a small little country and a superpower on the one hand, and on the other hand make them understand that we may be small, but we are concerned about our honor, and we are concerned about our sovereignty. But this can be difficult at times.

[Robinson] This issue about Iran. It was very clear from Vice President Gore's statements that he was not happy with our ties with Iran. The question is, how can we, as a so-called democratic country, have ties with such a country, thereby violating our own principles?

[Sonn] You know, Freek, in international politics there is something such as the maintenance of your sovereignty, but there's also something such as the protection of your own interests. In fact, it is South Africa's concern to promote its own interests, and if one thinks about the fact that South Africa gets between 60 and 70 percent of its crude oil from Iran, then we can simply tell the United States that we appreciate its problems

with Iran; the United States considers Iran a country that carries out terrorism — that is their key term they use. But on the other hand, they don't need Iran as much as we do, and I want to tell them that if they are prepared to supply 70 percent of our crude oil, then we can start talking.

[Robinson] Then one could say we are violating our principles for the sake of oil? Because that is not a democratic country, is it?

[Sonn] It depends on what our principles are. In this regard our principles are to maintain our own sovereignty. Where there is a violation, as you put it, of human rights and democracy, how we go about it [changes thought]. I remember when President Mandela, before he was even president, embraced Yasir 'Arafat. The entire Western world, especially the Jewish community, was stunned. But a while later, when the same Yasir 'Arafat signed agreements on the White House lawn, nobody thought of what had happened since that embrace by Mandela, how much work our president had done for him. Our mission as a government is to promote human rights and democracy in the world, and we don't always promote it... [changes thought]. In the case of Nigeria we are taking a very strong stand. But meanwhile, there is a lot of negotiation behind the scenes to encourage people, and you know, that is where President Mandela is strong, and the ANC. When one just thinks that the ANC's strong point — we don't have a lot of money, we are not a superpower — but the moral power that our country has is overwhelming, and we must always stand on that. And that is what we are trying to do in the case of countries known for their bad human rights and democracy records.

[Robinson] Mr. Ambassador, who do you represent, the ANC or the government?

[Sonn] Well, the ANC is the main party in government, but I represent South Africa. I get [words indistinct] government, but I represent my country, everybody in South Africa. [passage omitted]

Denel Accused of Illegally Exporting Jet Parts

MB0812160795 Johannesburg SAsm Radio Network in English 1500 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Denel and its subsidiary Atlas Aviation may both be charged with illegally exporting Mirage fighter aircraft engine parts to a Spanish company. The National Conventional Arms Control Committee [NCACC] met yesterday in Pretoria to consider a report on allegations that Atlas has been exporting engine parts to ITP [expansion unknown], a Spanish company, since October last year. The NCACC decided to

refer the matter to Pretoria's attorney general, Jan de Oliveira.

NCACC Chairman Kader Asmal says Atlas did not follow the necessary export procedures relating to the export of armaments as laid down in the Amended Armaments Development and Production Act. The act contains penalties for contraventions. Professor Asmal stressed that there was no objection to the export of Mirage engine parts to Spain, except that the control measures had been circumvented.

Cuban Official Elaborates on Investment Accord

*MB0812141395 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1351 GMT 8 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PRETORIA Dec 8 SAPA — South Africa and Cuba on Friday [8 December] signed a protection of investments agreement in Pretoria, further strengthening relations between the two countries.

Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma recently announced Cuban doctors would be coming to South Africa to assist with primary health care in rural areas following the signing of an agreement with that country.

Friday's agreement, signed by Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel and Cuban Vice Minister of Foreign Investment and Economic Co-operation Noemi Benitez de Mendoza, ensured protection for South African companies investing in the Cuban economy and vice versa. "This kind of agreement is requested and supported by the private sector," Manuel said, adding several South African companies were "close to making investments in Cuba".

They would look to a protection agreement before signing contracts with Cuba. There was "great need amongst the people" of Cuba, said Manuel, who visited the country last year. "For Cuba this is very important. It is very important also for the solidarity that has always been shown by the people of South Africa," de Mendoza said referring to the Cuban blockade.

"We assure you that the agreement...will benefit the people of South Africa, and will benefit both economies and create jobs in Cuba and South Africa," she said.

The Cuban economy was presently undergoing a series of changes, with a three percent growth rate expected for 1995. De Mendoza said because of the growth rate it was difficult to state her country's gross domestic product.

Cuban expertise in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology field as well as her rich nickel deposits would benefit South Africa, Manuel said. South African companies looking to invest in the communist state included min-

ing houses, agricultural and tobacco companies, as well as a company that exported chemicals used in sugar cultivation.

Cuba's largest trading partners included Spain, Mexico and Canada. The two American states formed part of the free trade area with the United States, with which South Africa this week signed several binding binational agreements. "We will endeavour to select our own friends," Manuel said about the United States' possible reaction to the signing of yet another agreement between South Africa and Cuba. South Africa recently established full diplomatic relations with the island state when it opened an embassy in Havana.

Mandela Urged To Lead Campaign Against Abacha

*MB1012192495 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1854 GMT 10 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PRETORIA Dec 10 SAPA — Nigerian lawyer Uche Onyeagucha and friend of executed environmentalist and writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, on Sunday [10 December] urged South Africa to lead an international campaign to end the dictatorship of military ruler Gen Sani Abacha.

Onyeagucha is in South Africa as a guest of the Lawyers for Human Rights [LHR], and is on a mission to lobby the South African Government and non-governmental organisations to develop a programme of action to combat human rights violations in Nigeria.

He told a LHR-sponsored Human Rights Celebration Day in Soshanguve, Pretoria on Sunday that South Africa was regarded as a ray of hope by the international community and Africa in bringing the culture of democracy to Nigeria and the rest of Africa.

This emerged during talks recently between Onyeagucha, British Prime Minister John Major and United States President Bill Clinton prior to Onyeagucha's visit to South Africa.

Both Major and Clinton expressed their feelings that South African President Nelson Mandela could be the appropriate world figure to lead such a campaign of bringing the culture of democracy in Nigeria and the rest of Africa, Onyeagucha said.

Onyeagucha voiced Nigerians' outrage at the detention of Chief Moshood Abiola by the Abacha government.

He blamed the Nigerian problems partly on the Organisation of African Unity, claiming it was siding with Abacha's administration. Onyeagucha said the OAU was incapable of solving the problems of the African continent, saying the organisation should disband.

Mandela Defers to Commonwealth on Nigeria

*MB1112154195 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1515 GMT 11 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PRETORIA Dec 11 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela on Monday [11 December] softened his stance on Nigeria, saying the issue should be left in the hands of the Commonwealth committee of eight which is set to have its first meeting in London next week.

"The initiative now ... remains with that group," he said after an extraordinary session of the Southern African Development Community's [SADC] heads-of-state and government representatives in Pretoria. Any ideas the SADC came up with would be channeled to the monitoring group set up at the Commonwealth heads-of-state summit meeting in New Zealand last month, he said. The committee comprised South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Jamaica, New Zealand, Britain, Canada and Malaysia.

Mandela had been expected to urge the 12-member SADC to adopt a strong stance against Nigeria, including oil sanctions, to protest against its human rights abuses. Mandela had been the prime campaigner in Africa and internationally since the Commonwealth suspended Nigeria and gave it two years to reform or face expulsion. Stung by the Nigerian military regime's execution of activist writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other dissidents, Mandela had tried to involve African states and major world powers in pressing Nigerian military leader Gen Sani Abacha to restore democracy.

This week Mandela held talks with United States Vice-President Al Gore on Nigerian sanctions, Commonwealth Secretary-General Emeka Anyaoka, a Nigerian who is responsible for setting up the committee of eight's meeting, and Organisation of African Unity Secretary-General Dr Salim Ahmed Salim before his meeting with Abacha.

Mandela told a media briefing at the Union Buildings Salim had expressed confidence he would be able to convince the Abacha regime to take visible steps to normalise the situation in that country. A demand that Moshood Abiola, presumed winner of the 1993 elections in Nigeria, and Gen Olusegun Abasanjo be released might soon be met, Mandela said. However, he was not in a position to make an assessment of the situation in Nigeria because the issue was being left to the committee of eight.

"It is not up to us as individuals to make policy statements on Nigeria," he said, adding: "The question of sanctions was not on the agenda (of Monday's meeting) at all." The SADC on Monday referred its demands and

decisions on the Nigerian crisis to the Commonwealth's monitoring committee for consideration.

"We have refrained from taking any new initiatives as we are aware that the international community is considering steps (against Nigeria)," SADC Chairman and Botswana President Sir Ketumile Masire said. The SADC, he said, had met to exchange views on the political situation in Nigeria, because of its concern that the country seemed to be drifting away from peace and stability.

Mandela had briefed the meeting on his peace initiatives with Nigeria, informing them of the exchange of views he had had with world leaders on the issue. Because most SADC countries belonged to the Commonwealth, it was thought preferable that its committee deal with SADC's proposals. Demands included the immediate release of Abasanjo, Abiola and their compatriots and visible signs of a programme for normalisation within the period set by the Commonwealth.

A request had been made to Salim to brief SADC members from time to time on developments. Salim was due to meet Mandela soon to discuss the issue. Masire said he was not aware of division among SADC members on sanctions or other steps against Nigeria. "We all unanimously agreed that we should go along with the committee of eight appointed at the Commonwealth summit," Mandela said: "I am happy about the decision that has been taken here. Every delegation has supported my stand on this issue."

Approaching the OAU conflict resolution committee to assist in the Nigerian matter had not been ruled out, Masire said. "All possible options are not excluded," Mandela said.

Monday's meeting was attended by Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, Malawian President Bakili Muluzi and Namibian President Sam Nujoma. Other SADC states sent representatives.

ANC NEC Discusses Nigeria, Privatization

*MB0912201395 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1814 GMT 9 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG Dec 9 SAPA — The African National Congress' National Executive Committee (NEC) on Saturday [9 December] reiterated the organisation's "unequivocal condemnation" of repression in Nigeria.

In a statement issued after a two-day NEC meeting in Johannesburg, the ANC said, having reviewed South Africa's international relations, it reaffirmed its perspective of the important link between advancing South

Africa's interests and upholding basic principles of democracy, human rights and socio-economic development.

"We call on the international community to adopt measures that will promote the speedy transition to democracy in that country (Nigeria)," the statement said.

"In this regard, the ANC, together with local, Nigerian and other democratic forces internationally, will continue to campaign for effective measures that will achieve this objective."

The NEC had also supported a "multi-track and multi-lateral approach to the Nigerian situation", with the aim of attaining a halt to executions, the release of political prisoners, free political activity and the speedy implementation of verifiable steps towards democracy.

On relations with China, the NEC called for a delegation of the government of national unity to visit the People's Republic of China (PRC) to expedite the process of arriving at a common position regarding relations between the two countries.

The NEC expressed its solidarity with the people of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) [Western Sahara] and said it fully [words indistinct] the implementation of this decision was delayed at the request of UN (United Nations) Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, in the light of an impending referendum in that territory, due in January next year," the ANC said.

On the subject of the restructuring of state assets, the NEC had strongly endorsed two major features of the cabinet proposal, the statement said.

"In the first place, the decision correctly locates the whole question of state assets within the context of RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program] priorities and the national strategic vision. In the second place, the cabinet decision reaffirms the need to retain core utilities, so central to the RDP, within the public sector."

The NEC had also noted the progress made over the last year in introducing a non-racial and equitable education system, the statement said but noted with contempt actions by "some minority parties" to block these democratic changes through ill-disguised attempts to preserve islands of white privilege.

"However, there are still many transformation challenges facing us in education. In view of this, the NEC has endorsed the convening of a consultative conference on education in March 1996."

ANC Proposes Delegation Visit PRC, Taiwan

MB1112132095 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
11 Dec 95 p 3

[Report by Patrick Bulger]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A government delegation should visit the People's Republic of China (PRC) "to expedite the process of arriving at a common position with regard to relations between our two countries", the ANC's national executive has proposed after a two-day meeting at the weekend.

The ANC said in a statement a delegation should also be sent to Taiwan to brief them on the visit and "to ensure that the two sides continue their own discussion on the question of their relations".

South Africa has diplomatic links with Taiwan and, while the PRC maintains an "interest office" in Pretoria, the question of the unresolved relations between Pretoria and Beijing is a longstanding source of irritation in South Africa's affairs with the PRC.

This year, two parliamentary delegations visited both countries but the long-standing trade and economic ties built between Taiwan and South Africa in the apartheid era make it all but impossible to sever the Taiwan link.

On other international relations, the ANC "unequivocally condemned" the repression in Nigeria and said that it would support "effective measures" to achieve democracy there.

The ANC also supported a "twin-track" approach with the aim of halting executions, releasing prisoners and the "speedy implementation of verifiable steps towards democracy".

— The ANC said a Consultative Conference on Education would take place in March next year and noted "actions by some minority parties to block these democratic changes through ill-disguised attempts to preserve islands of white privilege".

— The ANC said it supported May 29 date for local government elections in KwaZulu/Natal and in the Cape metropolis.

"The ANC is determined to ensure that free and fair conditions prevail, especially in KwaZulu/Natal," the organisation said.

IFP, NP Reach Constitutional 'Breakthrough'

MB1112171495 Johannesburg SAsm Radio Network
in English 1600 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] and the NP [National Party] have reached agreement on several important constitutional matters for

KwaZulu/Natal. The parties believe the breakthrough could pave the way for the IFP to return to the Constitutional Assembly.

NP provincial leader Danie Schutte said the agreement had been a major compromise which took into account other parties' views. The IFP's chief constitutional negotiator, Walter Felgate, said the agreement made it possible for a final constitution to be achieved for the province before the end of the year. An all-party workshop is being planned for tomorrow. Mr. Felgate said if a constitutional settlement was not reached this time round, the only option for the IFP was early provincial election.

Further on IFP-NP Agreement

*MB1112181895 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1555 GMT 11 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DURBAN Dec 11 SAPA — The Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] has made several concessions in proposals for a draft constitution for KwaZulu-Natal which could culminate in a constitutional settlement by the end of the week, chief IFP negotiator Walther Felgate said on Monday [11 December].

The announcement was made at a Durban news briefing addressed jointly by the IFP and the National Party [NP] after a pledge of constitutional objectives was signed and a new draft constitution drawn up by the two parties. Both parties described the agreement as a breakthrough which could pave the way for a constitutional settlement in KwaZulu-Natal.

KwaZulu-Natal NP leader Danie Schutte said in a statement released at the briefing that the IFP had agreed that the provincial constitution be in line with the national constitution and that it be certified by the Constitutional Court. The IFP had also agreed to omit from the draft constitution contentious issues such as a provincial militia for KwaZulu-Natal, a provincial judiciary, a provincial constitutional court and a constitutional interpretation of the allocation of powers to the provinces. It further agreed that the multiparty provincial executive council would remain in place until the next general election and that the IFP's "sunrise clauses" would be treated as "aspirations" to be negotiated at national level.

Felgate said the clauses should be the subject of international mediation. He said international mediation could result in the IFP's re-entry into the Constitutional Assembly from which it walked out in protest earlier this year.

"A result of the foregoing is that the position between the IFP and other parties, in particular the ANC (African National Congress), has dramatically narrowed, paving the way for an early and inclusive KZN (KwaZulu-Natal) constitutional settlement," the NP statement said.

The seven political parties represented in KwaZulu-Natal were scheduled to meet for a three-day workshop in Pietermaritzburg on Tuesday to negotiate a draft constitution. Felgate said although some parties could object to sections of the new draft constitution, there was no reason the document as a whole should be rejected.

The ANC could not immediately be reached for comment.

ANC Rejects Proposed Compromise

*MB1112203595 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2012 GMT 11 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] DURBAN Dec 11 SAPA — The ANC in KwaZulu-Natal on Monday [11 December] night poured cold water on hopes that the constitutional agreement announced by the NP [National Party] and in the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] earlier in the day could put an end to conflict over the province's constitution.

The African National Congress in a statement rejected outright a proposed constitution agreed to by the National Party and the Inkatha Freedom Party and threatened to consider withdrawing from the provincial constitutional committee if the agreement was forced on the province. "Should the NP/IFP alliance try to force their agreement down the throat of other parties, the ANC will review its participation in the constitutional committee," the ANC said.

At an earlier press briefing in Durban, IFP negotiator Walter Felgate said the IFP had made several concessions in proposals for a draft provincial constitution which could culminate in a constitutional settlement by the end of the week. The briefing was addressed jointly by the IFP and the NP after a pledge of constitutional objectives was signed and a new draft constitution drawn up by the two parties.

The ANC expressed shock at the agreement and said it "undermined democratic decision". The constitutional committee's three-day workshop starting on Tuesday for the seven political parties represented in KwaZulu-Natal was aimed at reaching agreement, the ANC said. "Any exclusive constitution in the province will not and cannot work. It is a recipe for a bloodbath."

The ANC said the agreement would destroy all hope for a negotiated settlement and would lead to deeper constitutional conflict. [passage omitted]

The ANC said the proposed IFP/NP constitution appeared to "entrench racism and the Bantustan system", prepare the ground for the province's secession, entrench violence, and provide cover for the IFP's re-entry into the Constitutional Assembly to disrupt its work. The ANC described as a "blatant lie" the NP comment that the position between the ANC and the IFP had narrowed and that the ANC was part of the process leading to the agreement.

18,000 MK, APLA Cadres Join Defense Force

MB0912163395 Johannesburg S Afrm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Close on 18,000 former MK [Umkhonto we Sizwe — Spear of the Nation; ANC military wing] and Azanian People's Liberation Army members reported to the National Defense Force during an 18-month period that ended on the 6th of last month. The integration process started on April 27 last year.

This has been announced in Kimberley by the Northern Cape commander, Major (Rebeka Ramano). He was speaking at the passing out parade of 3 South African Infantry Battalion. He said several of the 17,824 former cadres had chosen demobilization.

MK, APLA Cadres To Receive Military Awards

MB1012185495 Johannesburg S Afrm Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Defense Minister Joe Modise has thrown the cat among the pigeons with his announcement that former Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation; ANC military wing] and APLA [Azanian People's Liberation Army] cadres are to be awarded the Honoris Crux. The medal is South Africa's highest military award for bravery.

Controversy has been sparked by the insistence from high-ranking ANC leaders that even those found guilty of the Church Street bombing, which left 17 dead, must receive the medals.

In reaction to the announcement, the South African correspondent of the authoritative JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY says that awarding the medals to perpetrators of attacks on soft targets will make a mockery of South African medal standards. The National Party says cowardly acts of killing people at a distance could never be considered as an act of heroism. The ANC's Carl Niehaus has retorted that it is inevitable that there are differing interpretations of the terror campaign waged by the liberation movements.

Meanwhile, the ANC has rejected a morning newspaper report saying the defense force faces an emotional

and political upheaval if Mr. Modise goes ahead with plans to award the medals. ANC national spokesperson Ronnie Mamoepa said these suggestions and comments from politicians and defense experts could only create a climate which would make the integration process in the SANDF [South African National Defense Force] more difficult. Mr. Mamoepa said that as far as the ANC was concerned, the criteria for such medals to be awarded resided with the jurisdiction of the SANDF hierarchy and had nothing to be done with political interests. [sentence as heard]

ANC Denies Rift With Youth League

MB1112132695 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 11 Dec 95 p 7

[Report by Jovial Rantao]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ANC has denied allegations that there were differences between itself and the ANC Youth League [ANCYL]. On Wednesday the ANC denied that there was a rift between the two organisations and reaffirmed its confidence in the leadership of the ANCYL, saying it held in high regard the constructive work the League has done in organising and empowering South Africa's youth.

The Star published an article on Wednesday last week in which high-placed sources within the ANC and the ANCYL confirmed the differences.

The sources said besides the questions on the role of the League within the ANC there was also concern over the criticisms of the Government by the youth organisation.

The ANC says it affirmed the right of the ANCYL to engage in criticism of the parent body on all matters relevant to the movement. "The ANC similarly cherishes its right to engage constructively with the League on its role and function," the ANC said in a statement.

The ANC said the ANCYL League congress scheduled for Durban this week was postponed to March next year by mutual agreement of the League and the ANC's national working committee.

This decision was taken after an assessment of the preparations that had been done.

In a statement, Youth League president Lulu Johnson confirmed that the congress was postponed because of discussions taking place between the League and the ANC on preparations, and to allow time to debate the role of the ANCYL.

South African Press Review for 12 Dec

MB1212121595

[FBIS Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Improvement in Gauteng Public Health Facilities — Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 12 December in a page-16 editorial notes that a year ago the Gauteng Health Department "hardly existed and public health services were on the slow track to disintegration." Although services are "still in crisis" new managers "are taking active steps to improve public health facilities by applying reams of research into their shortcomings." THE STAR believes Gauteng health managers "are conscious of the challenges that lie ahead, which include broadening the clinic network and tackling the HIV/AIDS crisis."

BUSINESS DAY

Government 'Dithering' on Privatization — Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 12 December in

a page-16 editorial comments on Congress of South African Trade Unions, COSATU, opposition to government's privatization plans saying its stance is unlikely to deter foreigners from investing money in South Africa. What could deter them is "government's apparent indecision." "Either privatisation is on the agenda or it is not. But either way a clear statement of government's position is preferable to dithering." Downplaying government-COSATU differences on privatization "is not constructive. They have to be resolved if privatisation or restructuring of state enterprises is to be done for the benefit of the country."

Angola

Government, UNITA Demand Stronger UN Action

*MB1112161995 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 11 Dec 95*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Angolan peace process is looking to be in bad shape following waves of reported clashes this weekend. Although the Joint Commission of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] is still meeting and the two sides are still talking, UNITA have accused the government of overrunning some of their positions in northwestern Angola and there have also been allegations of cease-fire violations in the diamond-rich provinces of the north-east. Our Luanda correspondent, Chris Simpson, reports:

[Simpson] The Joint Commission meets again with even its chairman, [UN Special Representative] Alioune Blondin Beye, struggling to sound optimistic about the Angolan peace process. The accusations and counter-accusations from both sides have got shriller and more threatening over the past week, with both demanding stronger action from the United Nations. The government claims that UNITA is still on the offensive in the northeastern province of Lunda Norte, attacking the diamond-rich area of Nesage and causing at least 10 deaths. There have been further allegations of a UNITA attack on Chongoroi, in the province of Benguela, with local military sources claiming a prolonged UNITA bombardment on Sunday [10 December].

Chongoroi is in one of the more volatile parts of the Central Highlands, and it has been a difficult location for UN observer teams.

UNITA, too, has warned of fresh military activity in the northeast, claiming that the government chief of staff, General Joao de Matos, has been up in Lunda Norte Province supervising the arrival of troops and equipment, but the main focus of UNITA's accusations remains the northwest province of Zaire, with allegations from the local commander that the government which, he says, captured three UNITA positions one week ago, is now (?attacking) the provincial capital of M'banza Congo.

As always in Angola, some of the allegations have substance, some do not. There is always a big difference between the war over the airways and the war on the ground, but the UN, handicapped by poor communications and logistics, will struggle now to show it has a grip on the situation. With 6,000 Blue Helmets at its disposal, it will be expected not to let things slide out of control, but both peacekeeping troops and UN ob-

servers experienced serious difficulties in the past week with UNITA restricting their movements. UN insiders are warning privately of a new campaign of noncooperation by UNITA, something the movement itself strongly denies.

The [words indistinct] will certainly have to clear the air on this and many other problems if the peace process is not to have a miserable and acrimonious run-up to Christmas.

Joint Commission Postpones Special Meeting

*MB1112202195 Luanda TPA Television Network
in Portuguese 1930 GMT 11 Dec 95*

[Report by Francisco Alexandre]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Joint Commission was scheduled to hold a special meeting today, but the meeting was postponed and probably will take place tomorrow. The People's Television of Angola has learned that the main reason for the postponement is due to consultations the government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] teams are holding with their leaders.

The Angolan peace process is going through a critical stage. The fact that this Joint Commission meeting did not take place is an unprecedented event: It is the first time the Joint Commission has postponed a special meeting.

The meeting was supposed to have focused on issues relating to the ongoing crisis. [passage omitted]

UNITA Envoy Says Government Forces 'Want War'

*AB1212110795 Paris AFP in French
2151 GMT 11 Dec 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Abidjan, 11 Dec (AFP) — The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA], the former armed rebellion movement, "does not see any interest" in a meeting between the Angolan head of state, Eduardo dos Santos, and the UNITA leader, Jonas Savimbi, John Kakumba Marques, UNITA's West Africa representative, said in Abidjan today. "It is not necessary. The government forces are attacking us from the rear. They want war," he said in an interview with AFP, referring to the government forces' offensive against UNITA positions in the north and east of the country.

The Angolan head of state recently asked for a meeting with Mr. Savimbi "on Angolan territory," on 20 December. Since the signing of the Lusaka Accords in November 1994, three meetings have taken place between the

two leaders, in Lusaka, Zambia, Brussels, Belgium, and Franceville, Gabon. The 20 December meeting was proposed in Luanda by President dos Santos.

The UNITA leader has not officially responded to dos Santos' proposal. A series of government attacks at the end of November in the northern Soyo region, an important oil exploitation site, has suddenly put an end to the operation of disarmament and encampment of UNITA troops, which was considered the most important part of the peace process. The multiplication since that date, of clashes in Soyo and Lunda-Norte in the east, a region where diamonds are exploited, is seriously threatening the implementation of the peace process.

UNITA Radio Updates Tension Loci, Clashes

*MB1112130195 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo
Negro in Portuguese 1200 GMT 11 Dec 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Independent sources report that a South African mercenary unit left Soyo region for the city of Uige last week to mount further attacks on UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] at a time when there is a lot to be done to recover ground lost in the course of the peace process.

In Lunda Norte Province the situation is extremely violent as the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] are trying their best to derail the peace process, while UNITA forces continue to uphold the Lusaka Protocol and defend the Angolan people. On 7 December, an FAA battalion, backed by self-propelled artillery pieces, tried to occupy the UNITA-administered area of Munda. On 9 December, government troops attacked the area once again, though details of the operation are not yet known. At 1000 on 9 December, FAA forces based in Cafunfo and led by Colonel Faisca shelled the south bank of (?Lulo) River, causing human and material losses. The Regional UNITA Military Command has sent a protest note to UN Angola Verification Mission [Unavem]-3 in Lunda Norte Province, asking it to intervene.

In Bengo Province the political and military situation is worsening with FAA units still attacking UNITA positions with a view to destabilizing the peace process. The Bula Atumba battalion stationed in Gonguembo, Cuanza Norte Province, on 10 December raided a UNITA position on the bridge over the Londie River. Five UNITA soldiers were seriously wounded, and property was destroyed. A military source says the attack is the prelude to renewed war in the area. FAA's Bula Atumba battalion is heading toward the capital of Bula Atumba District.

Meanwhile, reconnaissance groups continue to abduct UNITA militants and sympathizers, as well as resi-

dents in UNITA-controlled areas. The aforementioned military source says government forces abducted 17 civilians, and UNITA soldier Evaristo Litulo, in Bula Atumba District between 20 November and 10 December.

The political and military situation in Zaire Province is also tense, with FAA forces violating the cease-fire. Colonel Dilingue, commander of UNITA Military Forces in Soyo Region, says FAA is committed to storming Pedra do Feitico before 25 December. Fierce clashes in the past 72 hours resulted in the death of five UNITA soldiers and the wounding of 12 others. At least 12 FAA soldiers were killed and many others wounded. The offensive against Pedra do Feitico is led by Colonel Miguel Angelo Vietnam who intends to seize the city of M'banza Congo once Pedra do Feitico falls in FAA hands. The 19th Motorized Infantry Regiment has been deployed in the M'banza Congo region to beef up FAA units. The UNITA Military Forces Command in Zaire Province says FAA intends to mount a two-pronged attack on M'banza Congo — namely, from Tomboco and Quiximba. The Command said should the FAA General Staff continue with its offensive the situation in Zaire Province could get out of hand because UNITA military forces will not tolerate more provocations.

UNITA: 'Violent' Situation in Lunda Norte, Bengo

*MB1112203895 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo
Negro in Portuguese 1900 GMT 11 Dec 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation is extremely violent in Lunda Norte Province, where the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] are trying to derail the peace process at all costs. A FAA battalion, backed by self-propelled artillery, on 7 December tried to occupy the Munda area, under the control of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. Government troops also shelled the area on 9 December.

At 0600 on 9 December, FAA forces — on Colonel Faisca's orders in Canfunfo — shelled the right bank of the Luo River, causing human and material loss. In view of this situation, the UNITA regional military command sent a protest note to the UN Angola Verification Mission [Unavem]-3 in Lunda Norte Province, asking for its intervention in the conflict.

Meanwhile, a Unavem-3 military commission led by Unavem-3 commander Major General Philip Valery Sibanda will leave soon for Lunda Norte for a meeting with the local FAA and UNITA commanders. The commission's visit to the province is connected to the tense military situation in the region, where FAA forces are involved in actions against UNITA-controlled positions.

Meanwhile, the political and military situation is worsening in Bengo Province. FAA forces continue to attack UNITA positions to hinder the Lusaka Protocol's smooth progress. [passage indistinct]

UNITA Reportedly Intensifies Attacks in Lunda

MB1112204595 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] has intensified its attacks on Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] positions in Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, and Moxico Provinces. A FAA General Staff source reports that the Nesage area is UNITA's principal target. In Lunda Norte, UNITA is carrying out military operations and moving its forces to various positions. It is worth noting that the governors of Angola's eastern provinces met recently in Dundo to condemn UNITA's operations in the area. This is what Lunda Norte Provincial Governor Moises Nele said:

[Begin Nele recording] There has been a dangerous evolution of the situation in Lunda Norte Province and containment measures must be taken to arrest this problem. Proof of [words indistinct] though, that were not enough, today they moved further toward the city. As you are aware, they shelled the town of Nesage today. Other shelled areas include Cataila, (Dojape), and the bridge on the Ruembe River. They used self-propelled artillery, including B-12 cannons, to indiscriminately shell those areas. Those cannons are mounted on mobile vehicles, and we believe they were on jeep vehicles of the type that comes in from Zaire. [end recording]

Executive Outcomes Announces Withdrawal Plans

MB1212122595 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1156 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pretoria Dec 12 SAPA — South Africans working in Angola as military advisers to the armed forces were to withdraw, Executive Outcomes said in Pretoria on Tuesday [12 December].

The announcement followed Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' statement in Washington on Friday that he was cancelling a contract with the company and ordering its staff to leave Angola.

"In view of the statement released by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos in Washington...The time has now come for Executive Outcomes to begin rationalising its activities according to the market demands in Angola," the firm said in a statement released by its lawyers.

The firm did not say when the withdrawal would begin. Officials at its head office in Pretoria were not available for comment on Tuesday.

The firm had maintained it would leave Angola only when advised by the Angolan Government that it had fulfilled its contract to their satisfaction. "The corporation is also very satisfied that it has fulfilled its contractual obligations to the FAA (Angolan Armed Forces) and is proud of its role in helping to end one of the bloodiest civil wars in Africa," the firm said. It said it had succeeded in exporting peace from South Africa to uphold democracy in Africa.

It said it hoped the war, which devastated one of the richest countries in Africa, was a thing of the past and that UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] rebels and the Angolan Government would work together to achieve peace and stability.

Government Opposes Establishment of UN Radio

MB1212110695 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0800 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] News Media Minister Hendrick Vaal Neto told our correspondent Pedro Manuel this morning that there will be no UN private radio in Angola. This comes in the wake of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali's latest report in which he criticized the government for preventing the establishment of a UN radio. Neto said the issue has since been outdated, adding that the law does not allow for such a radio. He said the solution is to allocate radio and TV time to the United Nations, noting that Radio Nacional covers the entire country.

[Begin recording] [Neto] So, I do not think it would be necessary for the United Nations to operate its own radio service, independent from Radio Nacional. We are willing to allocate any air time the United Nations requires.

Regarding the opening of a private radio station, one should realize that Angola has a Constitution which we must uphold. The Constitution bans private radio stations, particularly short wave stations. The United Nations needs to be heard throughout the country, and for that we have Radio Nacional. The United Nations has air time at its disposal.

[Manuel] So, the government refuses to let the United Nations open its own radio station in Angola.

[Neto] We do not think it is necessary.

[Manuel] Is this an outdated issue?

[Neto] It has been outdated for at least a year.

[Manuel] So, the alternative would be to give the United Nations radio and TV time?

[Neto] I think so. It can be negotiated, and we have said so to the UN secretary general special representative in Angola.

[Manuel] But the Secretary General's report issued on 11 December says even air time has not been allocated.

[Neto] That is not true.

[Manuel] In his report the UN Secretary General says he is worried about delays in the peace process. What do you think should be done in that regard?

[Neto] We would like to go ahead with peace process. The United Nations should pressure those who have been delaying the process. So, it is not enough to speak in general terms about the government and UNITA. The United Nations should force UNITA to abide by the terms of [words indistinct] that will lead to the implementation of the peace accord. [end recording]

Government Said Rounding Up Angolans in Namibia

MB0812131095 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1200 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from the Republic of Namibia say the Angolan Government has recently intensified its efforts to hunt down Angolans trying to visit relatives or eke out a living in Namibia.

The reports say these efforts are linked to the government's military campaign in northern Angola. The aim is to draft young men into the Angolan Army. The young men are taken to Lubango Military Airport in Huila Province and then transported to unknown areas. It is rumored that they are undergoing military training in Cabo Ledo.

Yet another interesting point is that the government forces are also abducting women and forcing them to marry soldiers who have been crippled in the war.

After learning about these developments, the Jamba General Government said it regretted the fact that a democratic country like Namibia is allowing these operations to be carried out in its territory. It also called on President Sam Nujoma's government to review its stand on this matter.

Further on FAA Namibian Presence

MB1012190095 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1200 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Angolan displaced persons living along the southern border said today that senior Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] officers were seen

in Namibia last week. The officers were in uniform, suggesting that the Namibian Government is sheltering FAA personnel. The presence of FAA officers in Namibia is related to the abduction of Angolans living in that country to be integrated into the FAA. Dozens of Angolans have already been deported to the border town of Santa Clara and could be taken to Cabo Ledo, where military training is under way, in violation of the Lusaka Protocol.

Sources with the Jamba General Government said the FAA's operations in Namibia threaten stability and violate human rights.

President Santos Appoints Government Officials

MB0612203495 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 6 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following a Supreme Court proposal, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has appointed four judge counselors — Alberto Huila Henriques, Andre da Silva Neto, Gabriel Ndundungo, and Tobias Ipalanga. President Santos also made a minor government reshuffle, appointing Jose Alberto Puna Nzau as public works and urban affairs deputy minister, Miguel Somaquisenge as Huambo Province's vice governor for organization and community services, and Gomes da Conceicao Goncalves as Bie Province governor for production.

Savimbi Appoints Party Administration Secretary

MB0812075995 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Dr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] president, yesterday swore in Martires Correia Vitor as UNITA administration secretary. The ceremony took place in Bailundo yesterday.

Mozambique

Chissano Assesses First Year After Elections

MB0712174595 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1800 GMT 6 Dec 95

[Interview with President Joaquim Alberto Chissano by unidentified correspondent on the "Cards on the Table" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Today, the "Cards on the Table" program is brought to you from Ponta Vermelha Palace, where we are interviewing Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano on the occasion of his first anniversary as the first democratically elected president of the Republic of Mozambique.

Mr. President: Radio Mozambique would like to thank you for this opportunity to interview you for an assessment of this, your first year in office. National reconciliation is a fundamental part of economic and social rehabilitation plans. Do you think the government and the president fulfilled their national reconciliation duties?

[Chissano] Yes. Obviously, we would have liked to have done a lot more, but our consciences are clear. We worked with that aim in mind. This is one of the reasons why our country continues to experience a climate of peace and reconciliation. Some concerns have been expressed and they might even give the impression that there are those who would like us to stray from the path of national reconciliation. However, we have been able to maintain harmony and to peacefully settle problems as they arise because we are keenly aware of our duties.

[Correspondent] When you say there continue to be sources of concern, are you referring to dual administration problems in our country and, more specifically, to the fact that State authorities were forced out from certain areas? I would like to know whether those are the greatest sources of concern to the government and to you, Mr. President. Are you concerned that these administrative and police officials who have had to leave those areas could evoke the idea of a certain weakness on the part of the state?

[Chissano] That is precisely the point I wanted to make: The search for reconciliation and [words indistinct] requires tolerance and it would appear that our greatest achievement was that we have been tolerant. This is one point I have stressed to interested people around the world. I remember quite clearly saying at San Egieo, Rome, that tolerance is the best solution for a world seeking peace. Tolerance should not be misconstrued as weakness. That would not be tolerance any longer. If you are weak and do nothing, then you are not tolerant: You are simply weak. In our case, however, we have been tolerant because we [word indistinct] (?unnecessary) violence.

I have told the media before that, in the Dombe case, we must act in such a way as to avoid unnecessary violence. Violence tends to breed violence and retaliation also tends to degenerate into further retaliation. There have been many incidents which I could describe as provocative, but we must always be wary of falling into the trap of responding to provocation.

Very often, we do not even know what is the source of the provocation. Very often, too, people being deliberately provocative are not to blame. Thus, we must be careful and patient. We must study things carefully.

We must keep all options open so we can come up with a solution that will meet the interests of the Mozambican people at large.

[Correspondent] But do you not feel that it is disadvantageous for the citizen if the authorities are forced out of certain areas? That means the citizen is deprived of state administration and the benefits to which he or she is entitled. How can the citizens feel safe if the administrator and the police pull out of some areas?

[Chissano] I must tell you that there has been an evolution in the case of Maringue and other areas formerly occupied by the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo]. There has been an evolution. To begin with, there was a complete absence of government officials, but we found what you might call a half-solution on the basis of the Rome peace accord. This measure was supposed to be in force up until the election results were out, and the whole process of setting up government bodies in those areas [words indistinct] today, we are happy to say that all districts — with the exception of one still (?controlled) by Renamo — have administrators appointed in accordance with those principles.

Thus, there is a policy that must be followed: We must strive to ensure that all structures and the population at large function normally. Now, if there is provocation that can lead to violence, we have to decide whether we must use administrative ways to settle it and take a step back, as we did with the administrator and police in Maringue and Dombe. Conversely, we can take steps that lead to explosive situations. The administrator was removed from Maringue but fortunately no one was killed. Had the few policemen in the area responded violently, it is quite likely that the residents would have suffered the consequences. It could be very dangerous to send in reinforcements to maintain law and order without knowing who is responsible for the provocation, or what its aims are. There might be more to lose than might be thought at first sight. I think that the Sofala provincial governor took his time, studied the situation, and saw that conditions were in place and the administrator was confident he could resume his duties. I think this is a good way to tackle problems like that for the sake of peace and national reconciliation, and rebuilding the nation.

Obviously, time was lost by comparison with other parts of the country where national reconciliation was already in full swing, but we believe conditions were not in place in those areas yet.

[Correspondent] There has been persistent talk about the existence of an unknown number of armed men in certain parts of the country — ranging from "Chimuenje" ["Little Light"; Zimbabwean dissidents]

in Manica Province, to armed men in Gorongosa, Maringue, and other areas — although it is not really known if these groups actually exist. Is the government willing to carry out an thorough and independent investigation of these matters so that we can overcome the present climate of instability?

[Chissano] I believe there is no point carrying out an investigation in order to assign blame. At this stage, the important things are to locate and destroy arms caches and to remove weapons from people who possess them illegally. This is what we are working toward. We have already helped clarify the "Chimuenje" issue. Even inside Zimbabwe, there was skepticism about the presence of Zimbabwean dissidents on our side of the border. Now we know that the Zimbabwean Government is aware they exist....

[Correspondent, interrupting] Only recently, the Zimbabwean defense minister said he knew nothing.

[Chissano] Zimbabwe knows. I am telling you so. It knows there are Zimbabweans here. It even knows that those Zimbabweans were cooperating with Renamo. To what degree, I cannot say, but Zimbabwe knows this, because some of these Zimbabwean citizens were captured in Mozambique and are now in the hands of the Zimbabwean judicial system. Zimbabwe knows about the "Chimuenje," largely because we have acted in a manner that has avoided accusing this or that person or organization.

In my latest meeting with the Renamo leader, it was made clear that there are weapons hidden in various parts of the country. He says Renamo does not know about these weapons. He knows about arms caches that, for various reasons, were not destroyed by the UN Operation in Mozambique [Unomoz]. We agreed to join the efforts to eliminate arms caches. In addition, people who are caught with illegal weapons may face criminal proceedings.

But that is not paramount at this stage. What matters now is to collect these illegal weapons. If people who have weapons use them to commit crimes, they must be treated as criminals — irrespective of which party they support.

[Correspondent] Will the government and Renamo team up to take concrete steps to locate these arms caches? For example, there are reports of 1,000 armed men in Maringue. What concrete steps can be taken to ensure that the public knows whether this group actually exists?

[Chissano] We keep getting reports from various parts of the country saying that there are 1,000, 150, 400, 450, or 500 armed men. We keep getting different figures. There are armed men, that much is certain.

However, this issue must be approached very carefully. Sometimes, there are reports of unarmed men who have access to weapons. According to other reports, there have been movements by Armed Forces soldiers, even civilians wearing uniform, in Maringue and other areas. Some of these men were not originally from Maringue, and they may have gone to other areas. This is what the reports say. My instructions are that these movements must be monitored. The men must be caught and neutralized. This is bound to help clarify matters. Our steps so far have produced good results, and even though people have every right to be concerned, they must also know that we making progress. I would be very happy if we reached the conclusion that there are no armed men or weapons. That would be very good.

In view of the fact that the Renamo leader has personally offered to assist this effort, we will ask Renamo to help. However, we are not establishing a joint force. We are not about to attack anybody. This is a matter of Renamo providing us with its knowledge of hideouts and arms caches — even if they are not Renamo's, even if they are the government's, the Mozambique Liberation Front's, or any other party's arms caches. We expect Renamo to help in that regard. It will be up to police to take the weapons to their rightful places. We do not need to launch an inquiry. There is a lot of talk about the need for inquiries, but that is not the most important thing. Above all, it is important to destroy the weapons.

We will have to take different measures if there are also armed men in those areas. If these men do not voluntarily surrender their weapons, they will be regarded as outlaws and we will have to act in accordance with the law. If they voluntarily turn over their weapons, they will be heeding the call that has been made on a number of occasions. The churches have also made these calls, and not even they need to know who these people are. This matter was discussed with the churches from the start, before the Rome peace accord was signed — first the Catholic Church and then the Protestant churches. The aim is to get to the illegal weapons.

Returning to an earlier point, this is not a matter of establishing a joint force with Renamo. Rather, it is a matter of getting help from Renamo, its members, and even its leader, who offered it, as well as help from any other citizens.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, dialogue comes to mind when there is talk of national reconciliation. A number of Mozambican and international figures feel there is a lack of dialogue between the president and the government, on one hand, and the opposition, on the other. Do you think this perception is accurate?

[Chissano] Yes, partly so. For my part, I would like to establish dialogue with many other sectors, but I am just one person. I have several duties and I have not been able to satisfy that wish. I am a member of a number of associations and I would like to be closer to them. Yes, I have to recognize that something is missing. I would like to do what I used to do: I used to go into a ward and meet the people in the flesh. I have not had the chance to do all those things but, if you remember that I dedicated this year to touring the provinces and holding talks with various representatives of the people, then I can claim that I have fulfilled my duties — in part, at least. I have held talks with people at various social levels: Some are businessmen, others so-called traditional chiefs, still others are religious figures, some are representatives of social bodies, and so on. I did that work.

Second, I complied at least with my duty to hold regular meetings with the Renamo leader.

Third, the central government level has organized, and its members participated in, seminars and conferences sometimes also organized by other institutions where issues are explained to and discussed with civilian society.

Finally, there is the Assembly of the Republic for open and heated debate. Be that as it may, I have to admit that there are a number of areas I would like to touch on and plan to do so. I will give you an example, because this is something I believe in: When we had the issue of the workers, I said we should find ways to continue searching for social consensus after that matter was settled. I am happy there was a seminar. It was really important to attend such a good seminar where we all learned something. We all needed to learn. I am not a trade unionist, but I would like to know more about trade unions.

[Correspondent] Are you happy with the implementation of democracy in the country over the last year?

[Chissano] Yes. If we were to restrict ourselves to what is seen as democratic practices in other countries, then we would have to say we have done more and we have done better than most, but the problems that have arisen from time to time have been amicably settled. In view of this, I think we can say we have complied with all democratic requirements. There are some anomalies, notably on the part of individuals, but that is something that happens in any democracy. Those are people whose actions contradict the stipulations in the rules of democracy. This does not invalidate the fact that our democratic process continues to be a successful example — I would prefer not to call it a model.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, you recently reiterated your unwillingness to accept a government formula such as a government of national unity. Is the government in a position to continue resisting pressure to that end? (It is said) that certain international donors are pushing for that.

[Chissano] Well, the fact is that I have not come under any such pressure for a long time. That pressure is something from the past. In fact, I cannot remember anymore when pressure was applied on us. The international community and the donors have taken quite well to our government's decision. They were concerned that if there was no so-called government of national unity, and I proved this on the many occasions when we discussed it...[pauses] however, it has been proven that our country enjoys stability. Look at Angola: The principle was accepted and there were agreements. However, what do we see in the newspapers today? This is what has happened in many parts of the world, including [word indistinct]. I had to convince the donor community that each country has its own specific nature that must be respected. I never had any type of pressure even with regard to the formation of a government of national unity. At least I have not experienced any pressure.

[Correspondent] What about the demands financial institutions such as the IMF make concerning economic performance and economic policy? Are they not a form of political pressure? Are they not politically motivated?

[Chissano] If the IMF behaved like that in Mozambique only, then it would be food for much thought. Broadly speaking, there are aims set by World Bank contributors, those countries that carry a great deal of power within the IMF, and they have ideas about how things should be. They have a vision of the world and perhaps they want to influence certain governments, but this is their behavior in regard to most countries.

Just yesterday, I received the visiting IMF representative and stressed the need for the IMF, the World Bank, and other financial institutions to try learning the reality of each country they deal with. They must try to work a little closer with the human side of each country. Many things look wonderful in theory. He came to Mozambique but not to talk about Mozambique. He could have been in Scotland and his speech would not have differed. I advised him to learn more about our country's history, economy, social affairs, and so on. That is only normal. It is what is happening in post-colonial Mozambique. In fact, it has happened in every country. We have had certain typical situations throughout our history. The IMF should take this into consideration. However, I cannot see the IMF working

behind the scenes to see a government of national unity imposed on our country. The IMF has never acted that way.

[Correspondent] Regarding the economic measures recommended by the IMF, more and more questions are being asked in Mozambique about the effectiveness of structural adjustment measures. Where do you stand on that?

[Chissano] Yes, there have been questions about that. Mozambique, like other underdeveloped countries, has raised questions, including the one I just mentioned. The IMF cannot prescribe the same medicine for every country without taking into consideration the causes of problems and difficulties. In our specific case, our country has just come out of a war that destroyed virtually everything. So the IMF cannot negotiate with Mozambique as it does with other countries that have never gone through a war, faced destruction, and so on.

As a matter of fact, I made a (?comparison), saying in the case of Germany, there was even a Marshall Plan after the war to assist it in reconstructing the country. In our case the financial institutions seem to be saying however: Look, you have a debt that must be settled, and our conditions are the same as for other countries; you have to move fast to come out of this stagnation. So at the onset they do not consider the country's real situation. So criticism comes from every underdeveloped country. I think what matters is that we find... [pause] or even force the IMF and other Bretton Woods institutions, donors, the EU, individual donor countries, and UN agencies to find alternatives to existing programs. In our case, the alternative is very restricted in that it is between falling down a precipice and continuing to walk on its edge while trying to create conditions for greater stability on firmer ground.

[Correspondent] In the case of Mozambique, do you see any alternative to relations with the IMF?

[Chissano] I think for the time being the program is doing well. There is greater understanding. I think our effort to get a better understanding on the part of the IMF is bearing fruit. It is worthwhile for us to move further to see if we can create the necessary foundations so that one day we can stand on our own feet with little assistance and dependence on the international community. So any alternative would imply a true revolution. It would suffice to say: Look, let us break up with the IMF. Let us break with the World Bank. As for bilateral donors, most of them would certainly automatically break off as a result. In other words, the situation would be worse than before we were an IMF member. Then we would say: Let us rely on our own strength, and to rely on our own strength means that

our people, all our people, must be fully cooperative — we must all pick up hoes, build roads and hospitals, stop talking about salaries, and what not. It would be a revolution. This could be an alternative at this juncture because we have nothing. We are dependent. Even the state budget depends on foreign donors. So there is an alternative — it is the one I have outlined. It would mean that the people would have to agree to endure the same hardships as during the struggle for national liberation. The question is whether it is necessary to go through that.

[Correspondent] Still on pressures allegedly made by foreign donors: In Maputo a few weeks ago, a number of donors publicly said that they favored the integration of opposition cadres into state administration, though they would not take political posts. How do you view that, Mr. President?

[Chissano] Well, I think they are right. But this cannot be done by trying to look for who belongs to which party before placing a citizen in public service. We do not do that. People need to go through all the formalities. As for political posts, yes, we must look for loyal people, because it is through such posts that we impose the government's program. We want our program to be implemented. As for other fields of activity, I do not see why a citizen should be asked what party he or she belongs to before being placed in a post. I would not even ask a journalist his or her leanings when working for radio and TV, NOTICIAS newspaper. I have never done that. I have never tried to learn the leanings of people. I know there are cadres in banks who belong to other parties. These people are known because they are important figures in political parties. So we do not use this kind of discrimination, not at this level.

[Correspondent] Since the national reconciliation process is still a very sensitive issue, could there be a move by the Office of the President and the government to appoint certain opposition members to specific posts. I will give an example of a non-political post. For instance, the appointment of attorney general. This post was filled recently. Many people would have hoped to have an attorney general from among qualified legal cadres in the opposition.

[Chissano] If we look carefully at the Office of the Attorney General and Public Prosecutor, the example is not appropriate. The attorney general is a legal adviser of the government, the state. He upholds the state's interests in courts. So this example is not appropriate. All the same...

[Correspondent, interrupts] But Mr. President, he upholds the interests of the state and not necessarily of the government?

[Chissano] He upholds the interests of the state and the government as well. So coming back to this example that is inappropriate, I would say: What we did in practice was to make use of the cadres we took time to train. There was no Office of the Attorney General and Public Prosecutor. It had to be created from scratch. It involved training during which people showed their capabilities. We had problems in selecting the right people until we had sufficient cadres from whom to choose an attorney general and the respective office. Before we had the presidential office of the attorney general. Afterward, we had to appoint assistants to the attorney general and public prosecutor. There were problems at the onset because we lacked cadres in that area, and today we have them. The same principle applied to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and...

[Correspondent, interrupting] I accept the example was not the best...

[Chissano, interrupting] First, we have assigned responsibilities to existing cadres and sent them abroad. It was not because they were party members, but because of their effort. They deserved to be promoted. So there are several areas in the Office of the Attorney General and Public Prosecutor that do not depend on the president of the Republic. People are hired and show their qualities as they progress in their jobs, and one can see that people have been promoted to a number of posts. I also should point out that in selecting the attorneys general and public prosecutors, I did not take their party affiliation into account. I did not ask them about their political tendencies. These are not included in their resumes.

[Correspondent] But you know the people in question?

[Chissano] Yes, but not that well.

[Correspondent] Although the example I gave might not have been the best, what I wanted to know is whether you feel that existing assets, including people in the opposition, are being fully used. Such a use would go a long way in national reconciliation.

[Chissano] I said when I was forming the government that I would, first, look for people on the basis of their competence; second, on the basis of their loyalty, to occupy political posts. Competence implies experience. There were other factors involved. In all cases, these issues were very important to me. Likewise, I sought to achieve a regional balance wherever possible. Once loyalty was assured, the question of political affiliation was a secondary issue. It was normal to find people with all those qualities among those who had worked with us or were members of our party. But if we had not found such people within our party, or if we knew that other parties offered better candidates, we might have

considered them as long as they had the two qualities I referred to earlier — namely, competence and loyalty, including resolving the problem of regional balance. But it was not easy to find people with all three qualities among people in other parties. So far, I have not found these qualities.

[Correspondent] A while ago, you said, Mr. President, that you were pleased with the type of dialogue between the Office of the President and leading Mozambican circles. Yet it seems there is no clear-cut system of parliamentary and extraparlimentary consultation. Let us take the example of the establishment of a Presidential Council. Has this idea been abandoned?

[Chissano] Well, I do not agree with your question's introduction, but let me immediately give you the reply so we can save time. All the same, let us put that aspect aside and deal with what you have referred to as...

[Correspondent] Presidential Council. That is, a body that...

[Chissano, interrupting] That is an even greater distortion you are making because I have never promised to create any presidential council. I have always spoken of a presidential forum where people would meet. I did not speak of a presidential council or the establishment of a body. These are two different things.

What is interesting is that even before I could elaborate on my idea of a forum, a lot was said, rejecting it. Some quarters said it was unconstitutional. So I gave time to people to address the issue. Some still say the idea is unconstitutional, others not. So I have changed my view of such a forum. It was a style of work that I wanted — and still want — to introduce. It is not such a difficult idea to implement. I could even say: The way we are holding this discussion today — if you were not recording it for the people to hear — we could view this as a forum. We are five people around this table. This is a forum; it is a meeting. Who knows if from these questions and answers, we are not giving advice to each other and learning from each other.

[Correspondent] Then, Mr. President, is there a plan to establish a forum?

[Chissano] In view of the positions aired by the media and a number of politicians, I agreed that it would be better not to go ahead with my idea. I decided to let people think things over. After all, some political groups said they would propose the creation of a council or a body to Parliament, but not a forum as I had envisioned. If Parliament had created such a body, I would not have opposed it as long as it had an advisory role, was a sound institution, and abided by the Constitution. What I wanted was a way of having a better organized dialogue

with society or some of its representatives. As a matter of fact, I had proposed that the membership of such a forum would not be a rigid one because it was not a decision-making body. So I still feel those political forces have no alternative to my idea. I hope to go ahead with my idea. As to whether it would be necessary to issue a decree legalizing such a forum, I reached the conclusion that it would not be necessary because I am not creating any body. Yet there would be expenditure involved to bring people from the provinces to attend the forum's meetings. So a document was required to allow me to incur such an expenditure.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, in the absence of this forum, this working method, do you not think we lack regular consultations? For instance, in several countries, the president of the Republic consults political parties. Could our Commonwealth membership not have been an opportunity for consultations?

[Chissano] So far we have not found anything that warranted such a consultation. It is clear that we can make decisions for the benefit of the people and the country. Like I said, I would like to discuss all sorts of issues, not only the question of the Commonwealth — with civil society in general, not only political parties. We also have to decide how to approach certain political parties because it is not advisable to promote dubious individuals merely because they have constituted themselves into political parties. So we must be careful. A meeting between the head of state and an individual confers a certain posture. So one needs to think about these things. Even with the creation of a forum one needs to be somewhat careful. Perhaps that was the reason why many quarters opposed the idea, because they felt they would be excluded. They felt they had more rights to be included in the forum than the leaders of political parties. That could cause some friction. In any event, we will find ways of going ahead with the idea.

[Correspondent] Local government elections are another important aspect of the democratization process. The government has been forced to withdraw the draft law on local government elections from Parliament. There could be negative results if elections are not in 1996. How do you view the situation?

[Chissano] As I see it, it was a question of stubbornness that Parliament did not find ways to approve the bill so elections could go ahead. The government did its duty by placing the bill in Parliament. I doubt that elections will be held in 1996 because Parliament still has to meet and approve the bill, and one has to allow for planning.

What is more, my view is that the debate took a wrong course by wanting elections nationwide. It looks

as if something new is being introduced. I remember that during colonial days, town councils were created gradually. For instance, my home district did not have a town council for a long time. It was introduced later. In a neighboring district, there was no town council and I think there is not any even today. So the establishment of town councils is not something new. Parliament could have dealt with this issue and made a decision, but since it did not, one has to face the consequences. Elections could either be held nationwide — if we had the means — or gradually. What mattered was to begin the process instead of doing nothing. That was my view. Now, political forces are happy with the new situation because they were not ready for the elections and were unhappy with the draft law on local government elections. Well, that is how they see the situation, but I do not subscribe to their views. I think we must all regret that a number of constituencies would not be in place soon, even if it would serve as a learning process.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] bench is big enough to approve laws without depending on the opposition. Do you think the government can take advantage of the situation without worrying about consensus?

[Chissano] When we see that an issue lacks consensus, we avoid using our voting power. So we adjourn the issue until we reach greater consensus. We will use our voting power when the situation becomes so dangerous that it becomes necessary to do just that.

[Correspondent] At a recent parliamentary session, a Frelimo MP disclosed that Lazaro Nkavandame was executed. I think this is the first public disclosure. Mr. President, do you think it might affect reconciliation? Do you think it is time the case is reopened?

[Chissano] I do not think it was the first time the disclosure was made. At a news conference — we were seated by that fig tree — I personally stated that those people were killed because they were traitors. It was not the first time.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, do you think it is time the case is reopened?

[Chissano] Well, I also said then that I personally felt bygones should be bygones. Even the peace accord that we signed says so. The two signatories agreed on this principle. That is my position. Now, when one of the sides resorts to a type of argument in a debate, often we are faced with situations that require that we deal with issues that should have been regarded as closed.

[Correspondent] You are saying to let bygones be bygones, but some of those people have relatives. Are the latter entitled to reopen the case or not? After all, the

executions were carried out after independence when a state and tribunals were in place.

[Chissano] I think it would be very bad to encourage such a thing because it is not a question of half a dozen people who were executed at the time. There were many others killed in different circumstances and during the just-ended war. It would mean resorting to a settlement of disputes. I would not like to encourage this practice. I have personally received a number of relatives of people who were executed at the time. I have been working with them. We have clarified what happened. We have been working with them.

[Correspondent] You have made a positive appraisal of the first 12 months of your government. Yet a number of opposition parties, notably Renamo, believe the balance is not positive. Renamo has called for early elections.

[Chissano] Well, we do not accept early elections because we know beforehand that the people are not demanding early elections. It is very easy to say people want [Renamo leader] Dhlakama as the president, as was claimed before the elections. Dhlakama is not the president, though it was claimed that the people wanted Dhlakama and Renamo to be in power, that Renamo represented all the people. One says many things in the name of the people, but the people do not want early elections. If the people wanted that, we would go for early elections. There are democratic ways to find out what the people want.

I stressed at two political rallies I held in Inhambane Province that there are visible signs of what my government has done this year. Even a blind person would see some of the things we have accomplished. I gave examples. So most of our people face hardships, but they know something is being done to improve the situation.

In 1995, we have laid the foundations, which are self-evident. I said once that our country needs at least 10 years of non-stop and sustained work to overcome this situation and have measurable results. I asked people: Please, look back if you want to measure how far we have come, and see the difference between today and the past. The changes that have taken place lead us to expect a better future.

Namibia

Nujoma Describes Nigeria as 'Friendly Country'

MB0812191895 Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN
in English 8-14 Dec 95 p 14

[Report by Denford Magora]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] While Nelson Mandela intensifies his crusade against Nigeria's dictatorship, President Sam Nujoma of Namibia maintains Nigeria is a "friendly country" — and lost his temper in public when challenged on his stance.

Nujoma has earned the dubious reputation of being the only Southern African leader implacably opposed to attempts to isolate Nigeria's military regime. Even though Namibia voted for the suspension of Nigeria from the Commonwealth last month, the government is adamant it will not support the expulsion of Nigeria in two years' time if Abacha does not move to democratise his country.

Earlier this year, Nujoma visited Nigeria and invited Abacha to pay a return state visit to Namibia. The invitation still stands, according to the government. [passage omitted]

Cote d'Ivoire

Government Issues Communiqué on Ebola Patient

AB0812220595 *Abidjan Frequence-Deux Radio Network in French 2030 GMT 8 Dec 95*

[Government Communiqué issued in Abidjan on 8 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 6 December 1995, an isolated case of hemorrhagic fever was diagnosed in the Department of Tabou [294 miles from Abidjan] in a male patient from Liberia. As of now, the health of the patient, who has been admitted at the Gozon health center, is not alarming. The infection is from an Ebola virus which is being further investigated at the Paris Pasteur Institute.

A team, comprising specialists from the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization, the Paris Pasteur Institute, Medecins Sans Frontieres [Doctors Without Borders], and the High Commissioner of Refugees, have gone on the spot to continue its investigations. Preventive measures of quarantine adapted to the situation have been taken and the Ministry of Public Health and Social Affairs will soon come out with a press briefing on this issue.

[Paris AFP in French at 1704 GMT in a Geneva datelined report adds: "The patient is a 25-year old man from a neighboring village in Liberia. He had been hospitalized last week in the Tabou region, south of the Tai National Park. According to WHO officials, the patient has been isolated and every precaution has been taken to prevent the disease from spreading."]

Guinea

OIC States Hold Meeting in Conakry

WA1212150095

For reportage on the meeting being held by the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Conakry, including President Conte's opening address, please see the International Affairs section of the 12 December Near East DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Liberia

Relations Within Government Said 'Deteriorating'

AB1112101395 *London BBC World Service in English 0630 GMT 11 Dec 95*

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Relations within Liberia's Transitional Government are deteriorating. Over the weekend, former faction leader, Roosevelt Johnson, who

is now minister for rural development, accused the six-member collective presidency of taking decisions without consulting the cabinet, and he threatened to resign if things did not improve. Budu Kaiser reports from Monrovia:

[Begin Kaiser recording] The harmonious relationship that characterized the swearing into office nearly four months ago of the Liberian factional transitional government is beginning to develop cracks. Roosevelt Johnson, the leader of one of the country's smallest factions, now rural development minister, has criticized the six-member collective presidency of taking policy decisions without consultations with the cabinet. On a tour of his controlled areas, he said since the government assumed power, it has never held any cabinet meeting to discuss issues affecting the country. He said he would rather resign than to be part of a government which has failed to deliberate on its policies.

His comments come three days after another breakaway faction leader, Tom Woewiyu, made similar accusations against the Council of State. Relations between the Council of State and civilian politicians is poor. The leader of the United People's Party, Gabriel Bacchus Matthews, was briefly detained Friday [8 December] for criticizing the three faction leaders on the council, saying they are agents of death, and need to be traumatized. Some observers believe the days ahead could prove difficult for the government unless it acts now to regain [the] confidence of smaller faction leaders, and civilian politicians. [end recording]

Groups Concerned About New Disarmament Proposals

AB1112122595 *Monrovia Radio ELBC in English 0900 GMT 11 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Concerns have again been raised about new proposals on the procedure and mechanism for disarmament. Interfaith [Mediation Committee], political parties, interest groups, and the Liberian Women Initiative say the proposals to restructure the AFL [Armed Forces of Liberia], reorganize, and reintegrate combatants in the Army and police before disarmament contradict the spirit and intent of all agreements signed to end the Liberian conflict.

The groups, in a release, said ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] is and must remain the sole authority for disarmament, while UNOMIL [United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia] is to monitor the process in respect of the Cotonou accord affirmed by Akosombo, the Accra clarifications, and the Abuja agreement.

Nowhere in any of the accords, the release said, is provision made for the creation of a disarmament task force drawn from the warring factions to assist ECOMOG during the disarmament process. The groups emphasized that the proposal for creating an AFL task force to implement disarmament as a precondition must be immediately rejected. In this regard, the groups said they welcomed the statement by Nigerian Ambassador Joshua Iroha calling on faction leaders to remove problems in the peace process created by their demand for new conditions to be met in order to ensure their cooperation. The groups are calling on ECOWAS, OAU, and the United Nations to take note of these concerns. Similar concerns were earlier raised by the Liberian National Conference, Chairman Chea Cheapoo.

Meanwhile, the Liberian National Conference will tomorrow convene a special session at the (Lye) Library to discuss matters pertaining to the peace process.

ULIMO, NPFL Set Up Buffer Zone Near Bridge

*AB1112192095 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 11 Dec 95*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It's not often you hear of fraternization between fighters from rival Liberian factions, but that's just what's been happening at the Saint Paul River Bridge: It used to be one of the hottest flash points between Alhaji Koromah's ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia] and Charles Taylor's NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia]. Even though ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] have yet to deploy in the area, the two groups have set up a buffer zone on their own, in line with the peace accord between the two faction leaders. Our correspondent, Jonathan Peyley, has just been up to the area. He telexed this report:

NPFL and ULIMO fighters, who until last week were still pursuing and destroying each other's positions in the Saint Paul River region, are now talking to each other and exchanging food and cigarettes instead of rocket fire. In my one-hour visit to the newly created buffer zone between ULIMO and the NPFL, I saw fighters of both forces talking to each other and moving freely in the no-man's-land. The surprisingly cordial atmosphere now prevailing across the much-traveled region stems from the replacement last week of forces who had been at each other's throats in violation of the current cease-fire. Private Abdulai Fofana, a young Mandingo commander, is now heading the ULIMO troops in the region, while an NPFL marine soldier, General Rufus Fasu alias General Equalizer, is the new man commanding the Taylor forces.

The two commanders told me things had been fine between them since the setting up of the buffer zone. A 19-year old former fighter of the NPFL small boys' unit, who claimed to have joined ULIMO while absent without leave in his home county of Lofa, informed me that ULIMO men were now demilitarizing their side of the territory by removing booby traps and artillery pieces. NPFL commanders in the area have prohibited unnecessary shootings, warning: If you fire, you get fired. The commanders have also removed heavy weapons such as bazookas and .50 caliber machine guns. The entire district is now calm. Apart from small groups of child soldiers still manning checkpoints, the main highway is virtually free of armed militiamen.

Nigeria Gives ECOMOG Communication Equipment

*AB0812143095 Paris AFP in English
1435 GMT 7 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Monrovia, Dec 7 (AFP) — Nigeria on Thursday [7 December] presented a consignment of communication equipment to the African peacekeeping force, ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group], to enhance its troop deployment throughout Liberia. Nigerian Ambassador to Liberia Joshua Iroha made the presentation at the ECOMOG base here to the Nigerian commander of the force, Major General John Inienger.

ECOMOG has the task of disarming some 60,000 fighters of seven Liberian factions under a peace accord signed in August in Nigeria's federal capital Abuja.

Without giving the value of the consignment, packaged in about 100 boxes, Iroha told reporters: "It is quite valuable."

The consignment contains two-way radios for short- and long-distance communications along with VHF Motorola handsets.

Iroha asked Liberians to join ECOMOG when it deploys December 15 "to make the task easier by cooperating with them." He later appealed to faction leaders to encourage their fighters to disarm to ECOMOG when the troops deploy.

Charles Taylor of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and Alhaji Kromah of the Mandingo wing of the United Liberation Movement (ULIMO), two of the fiercest rivals in Liberia's conflict, last week instructed their fighters "to respect the neutrality of the (ECOMOG) peacekeepers, who are expected to begin deploying in areas controlled by the NPFL and ULIMO." They also agreed to guarantee "the full

protection for and maximum cooperation" with relief organizations throughout areas under their control.

Under the peace accord that halted nearly six years of brutal civil war here, ECOMOG forces were meant to begin disarming some 60,000 combatants last Friday, but the process has been delayed because of funding difficulties.

Several other stages of the accord, including disengagement of fighters from checkpoints and the movement of combatants into assembly camps have also been delayed.

Nigeria

Top Abiola Aide Released From Prison

AB1012140095 Paris AFP in English
1326 GMT 10 Dec

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, Dec 10 (AFP) — A top aide of detained opposition leader Chief Moshood Abiola, has been released from prison, one of his close colleagues told AFP Sunday here.

Olu Akerele, a personal aide of Chief Abiola and Abuja bureau chief of the NATIONAL CONCORD newspaper, owned by the politician, was released on bail last Friday, the source said.

Akerele has been in police custody for about 14 months after being arrested for reasons yet to be officially disclosed.

It is generally believed that he was arrested for smuggling information to Abiola in prison.

One of the conditions attached to Akerele's release is that he should report to police in Abuja, where he was detained, once a week, said the source, who said that he had spoken by phone to Akerele the day he was released on bail.

Abiola, the presumed winner of presidential elections in June 1993 which were cancelled by the military, was arrested on June 23 1994, a few days after proclaiming himself president on the anniversary of the annulled vote.

He faces charges of treason.

The source said that he was neither optimistic nor pessimistic that Akerele's release might be a precursor to the freedom of Chief Abiola.

"Nobody can tell exactly what is going to happen in Abiola's case. We have seen cases recently of people being surreptitiously arrested and later released surreptitiously.

"But on the optimistic note, his (Akerele's) release may be a pointer. There is currently mounting local and international pressures on the government to release political detainees. Maybe, the release of Akerele is an indication that the government is beginning to see reason..."", concluded the same source.

Abacha Outlines Duties of Electoral Commission

AB1112223695 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 1800 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Electoral Commission of Nigeria, NECON, has been directed to immediately draw up guidelines that will ensure that political parties comply with the principle of rotation on power sharing. The head of state, General Sani Abacha, gave the directive today while inaugurating the eight-member commission. State House correspondent Oji Ogbonia Oji has the report:

[Begin recording] [Oji] Gen. Abacha described the assignment of NECON as crucial in view of what he called high expectations on the part of Nigerians following the ugly experiences of the past. Gen. Abacha described the (?role) of NECON as crucial, due to what he called high expectations on the part of Nigerians following the ugly experiences of the past. [sentence as heard] Democracy, Gen. Abacha underlined, was the [?right] to the Nigerian people as an acceptable form of government. For it to be achieved in Nigeria, the role of NECON must be impartial and devoid of conflicts. The head of state outlined the assignment of NECON under the transition program earlier announced by the administration.

[Abacha] A. To monitor the formation and organization of political parties and to enforce with vigor and (?urgency) the guidelines which will ensure that political parties [words indistinct] character.

B. To register political parties that meet the expected criteria.

C. To continue to exchange and [word indistinct] dialogue between government and all political parties. [Words indistinct] the number of registration centers [words indistinct] of the Federation. [words indistinct] for the registered political parties.

[Oji] Gen. Abacha also stressed the need for members of the commission to learn from past mistakes and be guided by a high level of credibility. Apart from organizing [words indistinct] and supervising all elections with the various tiers of government as provided by law, Gen. Abacha emphasized the need for the commission to initiate, promote, and create all necessary [words indistinct] for continued dialogue between political parties

and government, especially on ways of achieving stable (?politics), peace, and security in the government. [end recording]

Ex-Biafra Rebel on Events Following Executions

*AB0712144095 London BBC World Service
in English 0630 GMT 7 Dec 95*

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chief Emeka Ojukwu, the man who led the secessionist movement in Biafra, has been speaking out for the first time about events in Nigeria following the hangings of the Ogoni activists including Ken Saro-Wiwa. Well, critics might say he has jumped ship. As he says himself, he makes no apology for now being a strong ally of the military regime. Chief Ojukwu talked to our reporter, Chukwu Jamaeze, in Enugu:

[Begin recording] [Ojukwu] Everything Ken wanted was what was denied us in Biafra, which led me at (Ngbofigbo) to welcome them into the fold. He spoke of (?intimidation) in a very sort of rhapsodic manner about his struggle and in a very dramatic manner about his woes. I said: Finally, my good friend, what I saw 25 years ago, you finally have seen. Welcome to the fold. Only join the queue.

[Jamaeze] How do you personally see the interest of South Africa in what is going on in Nigeria.

[Ojukwu] Nigeria deprived herself so that South Africa should live. Nelson [Mandela] is somebody I have tremendous respect for, and I believe all Africans have tremendous respect for. He is (?reputed) to have made a very, very negative remark about Nigeria. If he did, it is to be regretted, but let it not affect the relationship between South Africa and Nigeria.

[Jamaeze] President Mandela's attack is not against Nigerians — he has been very careful about it — it is against the military and the military leadership.

[Ojukwu] That is interesting to note that of all governments that gave help to South Africa, the military governments of Nigeria, probably, gave the most. I don't know (?probably) in our search to be modern, we have to throw away our African virtues of gratitude. I really don't know, because when somebody has been good to you, the least you owe that person is understanding. And, when I see outsiders, particularly, white folk, jubilating over this issue, I laugh at them, because I have the full confidence that, eventually, Africa will triumph.

[Jamaeze] Next week, there will be a summit of all Nigerian politicians. Can you tell us what you think about this all-politicians summit?

[Ojukwu] A summit of politicians? To do what? Is anybody afraid of forming a political party? Why don't you form it and leave it to the people of Nigeria to decide who they support and [who] they do not? What are they... [pauses] Who is trying to sort of shepherd the Nigerian flock? It might be it is for the kill, I don't know. Let all politicians come out. If you feel strong enough, form your party. Go ahead, get your supporters right down to the grassroots. That is what you need. (?Don't limit) discussions at some [words indistinct] capitals of state, wasting time, diverting the public from what they should be thinking of. I, personally, do not support it, and I say that very clearly. This is not the time for it. It is not the time for conspiracy and (?crooks.) It is a time of going to the public and seeking the public's mandate. [end recording]

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